

the 1990 and 1998 freezes were challenges he rose to meet. His tenure as commissioner saw major changes in technology and regulation unfold. While known for his strict oversight, Cosmo was also noted by one grower to be "... the most cordial and professional ... person they had ever met. Contemporaries and employees alike commended Mr. Insalaco for his friendship and his mentorship. Probably most noteworthy was reference to Cosmo Insalaco's vision. Mr. Insalaco was an ardent promoter of education concerning agriculture. Cosmo helped launch the Blossom Trail, a self-guided tour of the fruit and nut blossoms throughout Fresno County during bloom time. Over the years, this annual event has grown and now draws tourists from all over the region and state. This tradition will continue to bear witness to Cosmo Insalaco's influence in the Fresno region.

It is most fitting now to honor this man for his life and his dedication to friends, colleagues and especially agriculture. I urge my colleagues to join me now in celebrating this truly innovative man's life, accomplishments and to extend his family our thoughts. He will be, beyond a doubt, missed.

HONORING CHARLES HENRY RIDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Henry Rider of Kansas City, Missouri. Charles is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Charles has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Henry Rider for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF DR. R. WALTER "WHIRLWIND" JOHNSON

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker I am honored to rise today to recognize the distinguished career and achievements of Dr. R. Walter "Whirlwind" Johnson, one of many unsung heroes of the Civil Rights Era. We also recognize him for his role in guiding the early careers of Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe—the nation's first African American tennis champions.

Dr. Johnson built a tennis court in the backyard of his Lynchburg, Virginia home during a

time of racial segregation and spent more than 20 years (1950–71) training African American athletes who would go on to compete against top players at major junior events. Dr. Johnson primarily used his own funds to house, clothe, feed, and develop these junior players, including Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe, who said repeatedly throughout their lives that they never would have made it without Dr. Johnson's generosity and support.

Dr. Johnson inspired, directly and indirectly, many of his students to pursue tennis-related careers, including Willis Thomas, president of the American Tennis Association (ATA) and tennis director with the Washington Tennis and Education Foundation (WTEF) in Washington, DC; former pro Leslie Allen, ex-chairwoman of the U.S. Fed Cup Team; former pro Zina Garrison, former U.S. Fed Cup captain; former pro Rodney Harmon, former head of men's tennis for the United States Tennis Association (USTA); teaching pros Arthur Carrington and Bob Davis; United States Federal Judge Henry H. Kennedy, Jr.; and Doug Smith, who covered tennis for 3 of the nation's largest newspapers—Newsday, the New York Post, and USA Today and is the author of Dr. Johnson's biography, "Whirlwind, The Godfather of Black Tennis."

Dr. Johnson most significantly helped tear down racial barriers in tennis years ago and helped Americans understand that tennis should be enjoyed by all who play and love the game. Dr. Johnson also served as head football coach at 2 Georgia universities—Morris Brown University and Atlanta University—in the late 1920s. He later established a junior development tennis program to train and prepare African American players, including Arthur Ashe, to compete in the United States Lawn Tennis Association (USLTA) sanctioned tournaments. Whirlwind's junior program was a prelude to the high-tech junior training academies and camps now run by tennis gurus Nick Bollitteri, Rick Macci and former No. 1 World Champion Chris Evert. Dr. Johnson operated the camp for more than 20 years and helped more than 100 African American juniors earn college tennis scholarships during that era.

Madam Speaker, we should continue to honor American heroes like Dr. R. Walter "Whirlwind" Johnson who fought for a better America without race barriers on and off the court. America and the game of tennis have both benefited an enormous amount because of Dr. R. Walter "Whirlwind," Johnson and we as a Nation owe him and other American heroes a tremendous amount of gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. William Johnson of St. Joseph, Michigan. An accomplished businessman and community leader, Bill Johnson is retiring from the board of directors of Lakeland Health Care after more than 33 years of service.

During that time he has led Lakeland through a period of phenomenal growth, with

the construction of new facilities, the addition of state-of-the-art equipment, and many awards for quality health care. Beginning back in 1975, Bill Johnson has used his leadership and team building skills to implement hospital mergers, build model care programs, and develop world-class community health initiatives. Since 1993, Bill Johnson has served as the chairman of the Lakeland Health Care Board, and he leaves a legacy that will shape health care in southwest Michigan for years to come.

Bill Johnson was born in Lincoln, Illinois, and graduated from the University of Illinois. He served his country as a first lieutenant and company commander in the United States Army.

Following that service to his country, he became an innovative and respected business leader. He was president of Heath Company, vice president of strategic alliances for Zenith Data Systems, and even after his retirement, he came back as chief operating officer for Gast Manufacturing Corporation.

He brought his business experience and entrepreneurial flair to Lakeland Health Care and to a number of other community organizations. And while Bill Johnson formally steps down as the chairman of the board, we all know he will continue to be involved in the community he loves. He and his wife Patt and family are true cornerstones of our corner of Michigan.

KURDISTAN IS MODEL FOR IRAQ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following op-ed published in The Wall Street Journal on November 12, 2008, by Masoud Barzani, President of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. It conveys the strong and important relationship between the Iraqi Kurdish population and the United States as well as their efforts to help build a peaceful Iraq. I was fortunate this year to visit the Kurdistan Region, and I know firsthand of Kurdish appreciation of the American people.

[From the Wall Street Journal, November 12, 2008]

KURDISTAN IS A MODEL FOR IRAQ—OUR PATH TO A SECULAR, FEDERAL DEMOCRACY IS INSPIRED BY THE U.S.

(By Masoud Barzani)

Iraq's Kurds have consistently been America's closest allies in Iraq. Our Peshmerga forces fought alongside the U.S. military to liberate the country, suffering more casualties than any other U.S. ally.

And while some Iraqi politicians have challenged the U.S.-Iraq security agreement, Iraq's Kurdish leaders have endorsed the pact as essential for U.S. combat troops to continue fighting terrorists in Iraq.

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) is committed to a federal, democratic Iraq that is at peace with its neighbors.

We have benefited enormously from the service and sacrifices of America's armed forces and their families, and we are deeply grateful. We are also proud to have shared in such sacrifices; my brother was among those severely wounded during the liberation of Iraq.

Last year, following a U.S. request, we deployed Kurdish troops to Baghdad. These